

REMARKS

Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to recite that (a) at least one of R¹ to R⁴ is not H, (b) X is a not unsubstituted 1,4-phenylene, or (c) at least one of R¹ to R⁴ is not H and X is a not unsubstituted 1,4-phenylene. This amendment is consistent with the elected species, wherein x is 1,4-phenylene, R¹ and R² are each H, and R³ and R⁴ are each n-hexyl. Additionally, this amendment is supported throughout the disclosure. See, e.g., page 9, lines 1-2, page 9, lines 9-10, page 12, lines 30-31, page 13, line 35-page 14, line 4, page 14, line 7page 14, lines 27-33, formula IIa at page 15 wherein R is not H (see page 16, lines 22-29), formulas IIb-IIn at pages 15-16, polymer (15) in example 1, and polymer (18) in example 2.

Claim 2 is amended to be in independent form and claim 4 is amended to depend from claim 2. Also, claim 5 is amended to correct a typographical error introduced by the amendment filed May 24, 2006. Finally, claims 17, 31, 32, 35, 37, and 38 are cancelled.

These amendments are being submitted in response to the new grounds of rejection presented for the first time in the Office Action of November 14, 2006. These amendments furthermore clearly eliminated the grounds of rejection. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Withdrawn Claims

Applicants note that claims 8, 9, 12-23, 27, 28, 31, 32 and 35-38 remain withdrawn from consideration. However, applicants request reconsideration of the status of these claims.

Claim 13, drawn to polymers, was withdrawn from consideration in the Office Action of October 11, 2005, although no explanation was provided. Formula Ia, as recited in claim 13, reads on the elected species and therefore should be included in the scope of examination. Claims 18, 20-23, 27, and 28 which are dependent on claim 13 should also be included in the scope of examination. Also, claim 36, which is dependent on claim 13 and refers to formula Ia reads on the elected species and should be included in the scope of examination.

With respect to claims 14-17, the Office Action of October 11, 2005 states that these claims are withdrawn because they require at least one polymerizable group and therefore do not

read on the elected species. It is correct that claim 14 recites a polymerizable material. However, claim 15 recites a film obtainable from a polymerizable liquid crystal material according to claim 14 and claim 16 a side chain liquid crystal polymer obtained by polymerization of one or more mono- or oligomers or polymerizable material as defined in claim 14 or by grafting same. Thus, claims 15 and 16 should also be included in the scope of examination.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

Claim 5 is said to be incomplete. The claim is amended above to correct the typographical error introduced into the claim in the May 24, 2006. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §102(b) in view of Hong et al.

Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 24-26, and 33-34 are rejected as allegedly being anticipated in view of the Hong et al. (CAPLUS 2001:809490). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the rejection, the Examiner alleges that the abstract by Hong et al. disclose thiophene-phenylene polymers for use as active semiconductors in FETs and TFTs. The abstract discloses the following four compounds (see pages 2-3 of the abstract):

5,5''- (1,4-phenylene)-bis(2,2'-bithiophene),
2,2'-(1,4-phenylene)-bis [5-phenyl-thiophene],
5,5''- (1,4-phenylene)-bis[5'-hexyl-2,2'-bithiophene], and
5,5''- (1,4-phenylene)-bis[4'-hexyl-2,2'-bithiophene]

As is readily apparent, these compounds do not exhibit Specifically, the Examiner refers to Formulas I-IV of US '904 and US '230, and RN 827343 in the two abstracts. These polythiophene compounds do not anticipate or suggest the monomers, oligomers, or polymers recited in applicants' amended claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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